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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **MATSUO, Naoshi**

Group Art Unit: **2644**

Serial No.: **10/721,067**

Examiner: **Brian T. PENDLETON**

Filed: **November 26, 2003**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: **7810**

For: **MICROPHONE ARRAY SYSTEM**

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
- EXPEDITED RESPONSE -
GROUP ART UNIT 2644

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 27, 2005

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action dated **October 26, 2005**, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the following rejections:

1. The 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 5 and 10 as anticipated by **Hatae** (previously applied).

Hatae discloses a sound apparatus comprising three unidirectional microphones 1, 2R and 2L arranged on orthogonal axes. The signal processing applied to the outputs of the microphones produces a narrowed sound directivity when picking up sound while reducing the influence of ambient noise.

This is in contrast to the present invention as recited in claims 5 and 10, each of which recites only one unidirectional microphone and only one bidirectional microphone. Applicant submits that a bidirectional microphone is not functionally equivalent to two unidirectional microphones oriented in opposite directions, and this assertion is supported on page 18, lines 8-